

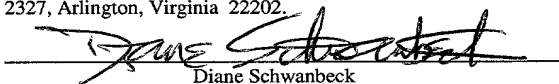
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of)
Yong Suk CHOI et al.) Group Art Unit: [not assigned]
Application No. [not yet assigned]) Examiner: [not yet assigned]
Filed: November 21, 2001) Atty. Docket No. ASIAP112
For: METHOD FOR SYNTHESIS OF) Date: November 21, 2001
EXFOLIATED POLYMER/SILICATE)
NANOCOMPOSITE)

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents and/or fees referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 21, 2001 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10, Mailing Label Number **EL896843603US**, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box Patent Application, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, Virginia 22202.


Diane Schwanbeck

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claim 7 as follows. The amended claim is listed below in clean form for the convenience of the Examiner. A marked-up version of the amended claim showing the changes to this claim is attached hereto as a separate page.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reactive emulsifying agent includes at least one selected from the group consisting of an amide group and a sulfone group.

Please add the following new claim:

13. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reactive emulsifying agent includes at least one selected from the group consisting of an amide group and a sulfone group.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Applicants have amended claim 7 to eliminate the multiple dependency and have added new dependent claim 13. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits for claims 1-13. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM

7. The method according to claim 1 [or 6], wherein the reactive emulsifying agent includes at least one selected from the group consisting of an amide group and a sulfone group.